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### *Cocktail Party*

The unseemly fuss over the Goodwin-Guevara encounter in Uruguay is a tempest in a cocktail glass. Now that the Foreign Minister of Argentina has resigned under fire in part because of his observations on the affair, there is a danger that the incident will be blown up out of all reasonable proportion.

The facts are these: During the economic conference in Uruguay, a Brazilian diplomat gave a private party at which Cuba's Che Guevara and Richard N. Goodwin of the White House staff both showed up. Dr. Guevara began a conversation with Mr. Goodwin, and the *norteamericano* listened. To have done less would not only have been a patent discourtesy; it would have been foolish.

When nations bitterly disagree, there is all the more reason why an effort should be made to learn about the adversary. This is what Mr. Goodwin was trying to do. It is firmly insisted that the conversation did not involve "negotiations" and that there was no diplomatic significance to the exchange.

In Argentina, however, the Foreign Office has for some months been urging that United States-Cuban differences should be mediated. Apparently, Foreign Minister Adolfo Mugica took hold of the cocktail party incident to support his thesis that the United States was in a mood to negotiate—and to help justify the visit which Dr. Guevara made to Argentina. But this does not mean that the exigencies of Argentine politics should be allowed to magnify further what was a trivial episode.

This country will come off a pretty pass when its representatives feel they must take heel and run when some *hardy* fellow strolls over at a party with a cocktail glass in hand.

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